

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Specification has been amended to correct the inadvertent error in the serial number the priority application on page 1, it being pointed out that the correct number appears in the Declaration and Power of Attorney form originally filed with this application.

Claims 1 to 5 have been amended to ensure that there is no lack of clarity as to what "metallic element" refers.

Further, the claims have been amended to address the Section 112 issues raised by the Examiner, even though it is deemed the phrase "found to be an effective susceptor" is not indefinite and does not fail to particularly point out and claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention.

It is first pointed out that the language "found to be effective susceptors" is identical to the phraseology used in the specification as to other forms of SiC, carbon, and graphite that can be used in addition to the 18 specific forms of SiC, carbon, and graphite set forth in the claim and in the Specification. Moreover, forming the fiber reinforcement is not the novelty of the instant invention, and applicants admit on page 6 of the Specification in the first full paragraph after the heading "Detailed Description" that any "known" preceramic polymer and "known" susceptor can be used. The ultimate paragraph on page 7 of the Specification states that the CFCC's used are those "conventionally used and known in the art", thus, the phrase "found to be effective susceptors" is broad, but not indefinite since it modifies the terms SiC, carbon, and graphite, and

those skilled in this art can readily determine by routine experimentation which materials other than those specifically set forth in the claims and Specification are operative. In this regard, see Ex parte Laiderman 175 USPQ 757.

Applicants' invention resides in being able to form tubular ceramic/metal composites using known polymeric ceramic precursors and tubular metallic elements, the precursor having a lower thermal to expansion than the metallic element, form a preceramic composite and thereafter pyrolyzing the composite until the preceramic is converted to a ceramic with high frequency microwave radiation, preferably in the form of a sterrable beam, to form the final composite without any degradation of the tubular metallic element.

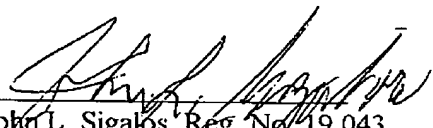
The claims have been amended to delete the phrase "found to be effective susceptors" not because they believe the Examiner is correct in holding the phrase to be indefinite, but because they believe its deletion still covers other forms of SiC, carbon, and graphite and thus does not limit applicants to the 18 specific susceptors noted.

Lastly, claims 18 to 22 have been cancelled without prejudice to their being prosecuted in a divisional application.

With these amendments it is deemed that all the issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, and it is respectfully requested that claims 6 to 18 are in condition for allowance, as are claims 1 to 5, and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

March 21, 2006

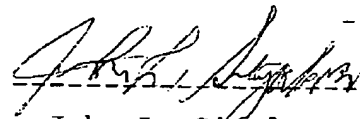


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I hereby certify that the above-noted paper was transmitted by Facsimile Transmission TO the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Fax phone No. 1-571-273-8300, to the attention of Examiner Carlos Lopez of G.A.U.1736 on March 21, 2006 as first above noted.

March 21, 2006



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